

# Proclamation



## DC EMANCIPATION DAY

APRIL 16, 2011

WHEREAS, on April 16, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act that freed all enslaved persons in the District of Columbia, and effectively abolished slavery in the nation's capital; and

WHEREAS, this Emancipation Commemorative Celebration marks the 149th Anniversary of the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act; and during this celebration, a wide variety of programs, lecture series', community projects, and various other activities are being hosted throughout the District of Columbia to commemorate this historic occasion of freedom, equality, justice, and liberty for the 3,100 formerly enslaved persons in the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia Emancipation Amendment Act of 2004 was signed into law on January 4, 2005, to officially celebrate Emancipation Day, as a legal public holiday observed by the District of Columbia government; and

WHEREAS, the Government of the District of Columbia is committed to educating the public about our unique history and continuing to fight for full emancipation in the U.S. House and Senate:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, do hereby proclaim April 16, 2011, as "DC EMANCIPATION DAY" in Washington, D.C., and call upon all the residents of this great city to join with me in celebrating this momentous occasion.

*Vincent C. Gray*

